

HAND WHEEL ACTUATOR HAVING STATIONARY HUB

(The following are the names of the persons who have been elected to the various offices of the Association.)

[0040] A hand wheel actuator having a stationary hub is provided by a housing supporting a first shaft via bearings such that it is rotatable about its own axis. The first shaft has an upper end configured for attaching a hand wheel. The actuator also includes a position sensor for detecting an angular displacement of the first shaft from a selected origin and producing a signal indicative of said angular displacement and an electric motor in operative communication with the first shaft for providing feedback to a driver. A steering post is maintained in a fixed position with respect to the housing for maintaining the hub in a fixed position centrally of said hand wheel, so that the hub faces the driver when said hand wheel is operated. The steering post extends along an axis of rotation of the hand wheel and through the first shaft, which is fixed to the hand wheel and rotates therewith.